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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
Fifth session
Geneva, 28 May 2001
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Substantive theme: "National capacity-building in biotechnology", with particular attention to agriculture and the agro-industry, health and the environment. The theme will include: human resource development through basic science education, research and development, as well as their interdisciplinary aspects; the transfer, commercialization and diffusion of technology; increasing public awareness and participation in science policy-making; and bioethics, biosafety, biodiversity, and the legal and regulatory matters affecting these issues to ensure equitable treatment.
3. Comprehensive note on implementation and progress made on decisions taken at the fourth session of the Commission
4. Presentation of country reports on technology and innovation policies
5. Budget of the Commission
6. Activities of the Commission regarding the coordination of science and technology for development and other inter-sessional activities
7. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the sixth session of the Commission
8. Provisional agenda and organization of work of the sixth session of the Commission
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session.

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Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. The provisional agenda and the related documentation to be prepared for the fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its 1999 substantive session in decision 1999/274.

2. It might be recalled that, pursuant to ECOSOC resolutions 1998/46 and 1998/47, the current membership of the Commission was elected on 16 December 1998 and on 5 February 1999. Other elections took place in 2000 and in early 2001. As a result of the 2000 election, the Russian Federation and Slovakia were re-elected in the Eastern European Group, and Austria and Spain were re-elected in the Western European and other States Group for a new term of four years ending in 2003. In the Latin American and Caribbean Group, Brazil and Jamaica were re-elected, whereas Grenada was newly elected to replace Cuba for a new term of four years, ending in 2003. In the African Group, Cameroon and Ghana were re-elected for a new term of four years, ending in 2003. Further, on 26 January 2001, ECOSOC elected Algeria and Sierra Leone for a term of four years ending in 2004, replacing Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania, whose terms ended in 31 December 2000. At the time of the preparation of the annotated agenda, three members from the Asian Group and two members for the Western European and other States Group had not yet been elected to replace the Republic of Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States, whose membership in the CSTD expired on 31 December 2000.

3. It should be noted that the Commission, at its fourth session, elected its Bureau for the fifth session. The Bureau is thus composed of the following:

Chairperson:	Mr. Stefan Moravek (Slovakia)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)
	Mr. Pedro Teta (Angola)
	Mr. Hossein Salar Amoli (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Mr. José Luis Villaveces Cardoso (Colombia)

4. As at previous sessions of the Commission, one of the Vice-Chairpersons should also serve as Rapporteur.

Item 2. Substantive theme: "National capacity-building in biotechnology"

5. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/61, decided that the main substantive theme of the Commission for its inter-sessional period 1999-2001 would be "National capacity-building in Biotechnology", with particular attention to agriculture and the

agro-industry, health and the environment. The theme would include human resource development through basic science education, research and development, as well as their interdisciplinary aspects; the transfer, commercialization and diffusion of technology; increasing public awareness and participation in science policy-making; and bioethics, biosafety, biodiversity, and the legal and regulatory matters affecting these issues to ensure equitable treatment.

Documentation

1. Synthesis report on the CSTD panels on national capacity-building in biotechnology: Report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.16/2001/2);
2. Report of the Panel on Capacity-Building in Biotechnology (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 1);
3. Report of the Panel on Legal and Regulatory Issues in Biotechnology (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 2);
4. Report of the Panel on Public Awareness and Participation in Science Policy-Making in Biotechnology (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 3)

Item 3. Comprehensive note on implementation and progress made on decisions taken at the fourth session

6. The Council, in its resolution 1999/61, requested the secretariat of the Commission to (a) identify and analyse best practices in partnering and networking; and (b) build an inventory of opportunities for international science and technology partnerships and networking.

7. In order to better promote science and technology partnerships, the Council recommended that the Commission collaborate more closely with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

8. With regard to biotechnology for food production, the Council, in its resolution 1999/61, recommended that the Commission, through its secretariat, initiate a dialogue that involves the private and the public sectors, non-governmental organizations and specialized biotechnology centres and networks, with a view to fostering the exchange of information and ideas among scientists, policy makers, representatives of industry and end-users. Such a dialogue could provide a forum in which to raise issues concerning global developments in biotechnology and to raise public awareness and create better understanding of the potential benefits of biotechnology and other critical issues.

9. The Council, in its resolution 1999/61, requested the secretariat of the Commission: (a) to assist in identifying and disseminating balanced information on biotechnology, intellectual property rights and biosafety; and (b) to examine case studies of approaches to address issues

related to technology, intellectual property rights and biosafety issues in a practical, understandable and concrete way.

10. It also requested the Commission to collaborate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in preparing the next issue of the Advanced Technology Assessment System bulletin on biotechnology for food production.

11. Finally, the Council recommended that the Commission and its secretariat cooperate with other international and regional organizations active in biotechnology, non-governmental organizations and other international institutions, to build understanding and to exchange information on biosafety regulation and capacity-building, including through case studies on (a) partnerships in biotechnology, (b) biosafety, (c) bioethics and (d) approaches to biotechnology and intellectual property rights issues.

12. With regard to the coalition of resources, the Council requested the secretariat of the Commission to finalize the publication of the reports on the coalition of resources for the application of information and communication technologies in transmission infrastructure, education and health, and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the final report.

Documentation

1. Comprehensive note on implementation and progress made on decisions taken at the fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.16/2001/3);
2. Partnerships and networking in science and technology for development (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 4);
3. Balanced information on biotechnology (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 7)
4. Changing dynamics of global computer software and services industry: implications for developing countries (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 5);
5. Synthesis report on the workshop on coalition of resources (E/CN.16/2001/Misc. 6)

Item 4. Presentation of country reports on technology and innovation policies

13. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/61, recommended that the Commission continue to liaise with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on science, technology and innovation policy reviews with interested countries in order to identify options for national action, especially those that foster technological capability and innovation and the transfer and diffusion of technology. A country review for Ethiopia will be presented to the Commission.

Item 5. Budget of the Commission

14. In its resolution 1997/62, ECOSOC recommended that at future sessions of the

Commission, the report on the budget and inter-sessional activities of the Commission be considered under a separate agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the budget and inter-sessional activities of the Commission (E/CN.16/2001/4)

Item 6. Activities of the Commission regarding the coordination of science and technology for development and other inter-sessional activities

15. In its resolution 1999/61, the Economic and Social Council urged the secretariat of the Commission, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, to establish an electronic network linking information on their activities in science and technology for development and to build awareness of scientific developments that are particularly important for fostering economic and social development. ECOSOC also requested the secretariat to continue to issue the regular newsletter updating activities in the United Nations system pertaining to science and technology for development, including information on plans for and the results of the inter-sessional activities of the Commission.

16. The Council further called upon the secretariat and the Bureau of the Commission to identify and take advantage of opportunities to interact closely with bodies of the United Nations system in order to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in science and technology for development.

17. The Council also recommended that every other year one panel meeting should be held in Geneva in order to enable the Bureau of the Commission to meet the Geneva-based delegations of member States and observers for one day to discuss with the delegations the status of the inter-sessional activities of the Commission and its efforts to coordinate activities of the United Nations system pertaining to science and technology for development.

18. Finally, the Council agreed to include in the CSTD agenda the item entitled "Functioning of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development", and requested the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a succinct analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Science Conference, for consideration under this item.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the activities of the Commission regarding the coordination of science and technology for development and relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Science Conference (E/CN.16/2001/5)

Item 7. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the sixth session of the Commission

19. The Commission may wish to follow the practice adopted at its previous sessions of electing a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons for its sixth session. It is understood that one of the Vice-Chairpersons would also serve as Rapporteur.

Item 8. Provisional agenda and organization of work of the sixth session of the Commission

20. The Commission will have before it a note by the secretariat on the provisional agenda for its sixth session, the documents to be submitted under each item and the organization of its work.

Item 9. Other matters

Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifth session

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235 and Economic and Social Council decision 1992/218, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development submits its report to the Council.